

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the personal interview on September 12, 2006. The interview included the Examiner's explanation of the Office's understanding of the limits on statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Applicant understand from this discussion that claims would be directed to statutory subject matter if, for example, claim 1 included a step of outputting information and that claims 60 and 61 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although the Applicant does not accede to the Office's views on statutory subject matter, the claims have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions to expedite prosecution.

Claims 1, 2 and 3 have been amended to recite that the method includes providing an output, which is a "result in tangible form useful to the user," as explained in the most recent action. This limitation is supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, Figure 1 shows a bidirectional arrow between the memory 24 which store results and the output devices represented by the I/O devices 26. The schematic includes arrows indicating information flow from the memory 24 to the bus 28 and then to "a set of input/output devices (e.g. keyboard, mouse, monitor, printer, etc.) 26," see the description of this figure at page 8, lines 11-12.

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, an output of a probability matrix is a useful, concrete and tangible result. Such a probability matrix can be used, for example, in the generation of protein sequences (e.g., currently amended claim 2) and the generation of protein libraries (e.g., currently amended claim 3).

Claims 60 and 61 have been rewritten in independent form.

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Page : 11 of 11

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Enclosed is Petition for Extension of Time. Please apply the fee to deposit
account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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